

# critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY  
EL 5-6894 T.M. Kraus



March 13, 1957 Vol IX No 17 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest- 10th yr-\$25 a year

## This Week

A new three year pact on the employment of Aliens has finally been reached by Actors Equity and League of NY Theatres. Aliens may now be employed to the extent of 30 % of a company, but not more than 10 aliens in any cast. This will also end the granting of approval of each actor by Equity; the item that set off the My Fair Lady flare-up.

## Plays

Maiden Voyage closed in Philadelphia and will not be done on Broadway until next season... Good as Gold closed after 4 performances... The Hidden River closes this week-end after 61 performances... Hide and Seek opens April 2 at Belasco... The Joker opens April 4 at Playhouse... Clare Luce writing play, The Little Dipper for October presentation with the Gishs... The Diary of Anne Frank passed 600th performance mark... The First Gentleman to sell tickets from "Show Wagon" truck which will visit NYC suburbs.

## Players

Clare Bloom to return to NY next season in Look Back in Anger... Edward G. Robinson missed matinee of The Middle of the Night due to injured foot... Paul Lipson replaced George S Irving, Bells Are Ringing... Mark Dawson signed for New Girl in Town... Josephine Hull died at age 71... William Johnson died at age 41.

## Vaudeville

New Palace show features Lillian Briggs, Sandy Gamory Trio, Fred Lowery.

## Calendar

The Sin of Pat Muldoon-Cort 3/13  
Roger Stevens & Richard Adler present new play by John McLiam, starring James Barton... The Beggar's Opera-City Center 3/13. NYC Light Opera Company presents first of five productions. With Shirley Jones, Jack Cassidy, Paula Laurence... The Trojan Women- Theatre Marquee-110 E 59 3/18. Wayne Richardson presents Euripides drama with Olive Deering... The Duchess of Malfi - Phoenix 3/19. John Webster drama presented by American Shakespeare Festival Company.

## Shakespeare Festivals

Hofstra College, Long Island, opens 8th Shakespeare Festival April 5 with As You Like It... Barter Theatre of Virginia to present The Tempest starting April 23 at new Phi Beta Kappa Theatre, Williamsburg... American Shakespeare Festival Theatre invited to Brussels World Fair of 1958.

## Other Broadways

5 Harvard students present Jean Genet's The Deathwatch... Toledo Zoo program insured by \$50,000 raised in one week. Season to include 4 weeks of Shakespearean plays, 3 of lyric theatre and 3 of repertory.

## Theatre TV Notes

Eileen presented on NBC Lux Mar 14 with Gordon MacRae and Patricia Morison... Leland Hayward signed 5 year contract with CBS TV to produce one 90 minute program a year, and to create a new series yearly

### Digests of Current NYC Theatre Reviews

3 Synge Plays- Theatre East 3/6. 3 pros- Times, Post, Journal American-World Telegram & Sun- and one cone- Herald Tribune recorded for Irish Players presentation of three one act plays by J. M. Synge. Latter critic filed con notice because he felt that the three charming playlets were poorly acted by a group of willing actors groping vainly after a tune that just isn't in them. Colleagues disagreed with Kerr. Atkinson, Times, praised the lively, unself-conscious performances in The Tinker's Wedding, In The Shadow of the Glen, and Riders to the Sea. Neil Fitzgerald gave the finest performance in the first mentioned, Times man noted. Watts, Post, summed it up as an evening rich in the glories of sheer lyric eloquence. Though McClain, Journal American, noted the cramped quarters actors worked in, but joined bandwagon in okaying skillful acting and direction. An unpretentious and ingratiating Off-Broadway offering, he concluded. Donnelley, WT&S, found a soft spot here and there, but complimented all the actors for taste, humor and a warm appreciation of Synge's special qualities.

Good as Gold- Belasco- 3/7-3/9. 7 con votes and 4 performances are the vital statistics of John Patrick comedy presented by Cheryl Crawford and William Myers. The idea of the comedy and Peter Larkin's sets drew the few kind words involved. Cast included Paul Ford, Roddy McDowall, Robert Emhardt, with Albert Marre, director. Atkinson, Times, feared play fell apart at half way mark. Kerr, Herald Tribune, believes idea of turning gold into special dirt that will grow gigantic carrots, etc, is only worth a 5 line joke, not a full length play. Chapman, News, also noted a good, swift, satirical start, which was never followed up. Coleman, Mirror, reported first night audience liked show, but he found it poor burlesque. Jokes became labored, political jibes wore thin quickly, noted McClain, Journal American. Watts, Post, thought it a great pity that it ended as a feeble cartoon.

Wedding in Japan- Greystone-91st & Broadway 3/11. 1 pro vote-Post- and 3 con votes- Times, WT & S, and Womens Wear, recorded on revival of Ted Pollack's drama of a Negro soldier in Japan. Presented in Greystone Hotel ballroom on an interesting two level stage Herridge, Post, praised the military aspects as having some valid comments to make on military justice, though she thought love scenes poorly done. Dissenters agreed that the court-martial scenes were interesting, but thought acting and direction poor throughout.

Exiles- Renata- 144 Bleecker 3/12. 3 pros-Times, Post, Herald Tribune- and 1 con- Herald Tribune-filed on Broun-Frederik production of James Joyce's only play. All approved handsome, comfortable downtown house as well come addition. Critics agreed Joyce's play is very difficult, as novelist was not trained playwright. Despite this, Atkinson, Times, found it engrossing drama, absorbing and provocative. Beckley, Herald Tribune, added that it is a fine production, superbly directed by Walt Witcover. Su Remarkably well acted that script takes on a surprising amount of life and develops a vitality one would never suspect from reading it, comments Watts, Post. But Donnelley, WT&S, wasn't convinced. To him the play was just a "bomb," a preposterous drama. Play was written in 1912.

Toronto Play Roundup- 3/11. The Glass Cage written by J B Priestley for the new Crest Theatre is a workmanlike play, part melodrama, part mystery, concludes Atkinson, Times. 853 seat house run by Davis family last season played 39 weeks of 17 productions. Out of This World is also being presented in Toronto, as is the 10th annual Spring Thaw revue. Critic found revue to be written with skill and humor and brisly acted by 9 performers. It is civilized without being egregiously clever and has a fresh score.

## London Theatre



### Plays

Camillo Real will be presented in April with Denholm Elliott, Harry Andrews, Freda Jackson, with Peter Hall directing... Splash of Paint, a new musical about Chelsea life by Robert Bishop and Ronnie Hill will be presented this season in London .... Folies Bergere revue opens at Prince of Wales Theatre April 20... The Magnificent Fraud by American Robert Gordon Dare is on tour prior to West End run. Starring Julia Arnall, with Lawrence Davidson and Stuart Saunders.

A Hatful of Rain London debut marked by death in first night audience of Elga James Sullivan, father of cast member Bonar Colleano. Show was criticised for being directed at too slow a pace by Sam Wanamaker.

### Club Theatres

Harvest Time musical with 16 numbers staged at New Lindsay Theatre, after two-man show At the Drop of a Hat moved to Fortune. Composers of musical are Jack Sherman and Geoffrey Venis.

### London Calendar

Mar 14- The Iron Duchess-  
Cambridge... Mar 28- Damn Yankees-  
Coliseum... Apr 1-The Teenagers-  
Palladium

## For Stage Struck Only



\*This weekly NYC newsletter digests----Complete theatre news(page 1), reviews of all openings(page 2), comments by critics(page 6.)

\* Plus NYC critics suggestions on theatre books, records. (page 7.)



\* Plus Off Broadway and Full Summer Theatre coverage (page 7). London (page 3.)

\* Plus complete business & critical data on all current shows( page 4 & 5.)

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CRITICAL DIGEST---139 E 47, NYC.

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 Mar 13, 1957 PLAYGOERS GUIDE chart of CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47, NYC- EL 5-6894  
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This weekly chart of CRITICAL DIGEST, the weekly NYC theatre newsletter, presents up-to-date data on current business and critical reception of all current Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. Subscribers to CRITICAL DIGEST may write or phone for any other specific data or for late reviews.

"C"- Critics- figures refer to percentages of PRO reviews filed by NYC daily drama critics. PRO means show was recommended as entertaining and/or stimulating, not if critic predicted if show would run or not.

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales of past week and preceding weeks. "B- figures refer to past week's attendance. "Cap." - figures refer to capacity of house. Figures that follow are gross estimates by Variety for past week and preceding weeks. All figures are in thousands of dollars. Thus "Cap \$45--\$43 \$41 \$43--" means that capacity of house is \$45,000, last week's sales \$43,000, previous week \$41,000, etc.

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AUNTIE MAME	238 W 44	100% C- Mostly for R. Russell 0% Minus her	100% B- Cap \$43--\$43 \$43 \$43 \$43 \$43 \$43
Broadhurst \$5.75	CI 6-6699		
BELLS ARE RINGING	230 W 44	80% C- 2 Con show-Times, WT & S- 100% Judy	
Shubert \$7.50	CI 6-5990	100% B- Cap \$55--\$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55	
DIARY ANNE FRANK	229 W 49	100% C- Unanimous praise Pulitzer Prize	
Ambassador \$5.75	CO 5-1855	50% B- Cap \$35--\$15 just moved from Cort	
DAMN YANKEE	226 W 46	100% C- Unanimous praise cast & music	
46th St \$8.05	CI 6-4271	65% B- Cap \$50--\$34 \$41 \$34 \$37 \$41 \$33 \$30	
HAPPIEST MILLION.	150 W 45	60% C- 3 Cons- Trib, Post, J. Am.	
Lycium \$5.75	JU 2-3897	85% B- Cap \$26--\$21 \$23 \$23 \$23 \$23 \$23 \$25	
HAPPY HUNTING	245 W 44	100% C- for Marman-10% C-Mir. sole pro show	
Majestic \$4.05	CI 6-0730	100% B- Cap \$70--\$70 \$70 \$70 \$70 \$70 \$70 \$70	
HIDDEN RIVER	137 W 48	90% C- 1 Con- Mirror	
Playhouse \$5.75	CI 5-6060	50% B- Cap \$36--\$16 \$20 \$17- FINAL WEEK	
HOLE IN HEAD	236 W 45	40% C- 3 Pro- Times, Post, J. Am.	
Plymouth \$6.25	CI 6-9156		
HOLIDAY LOVERS	250 W 48	20% C- 2 Pro- Post, J. Am	
Longacre \$5.75	CI 6-5639	70% B- Cap \$29--\$18 \$23	
INHERIT WIND	208 W 41	90% C- Funky, sole con vote- Times	
National \$5.75	PE 6-8220	60% B- Cap \$30--\$21 \$27 \$22 \$21 \$25 \$25 \$20	
LIL ABNER	235 W 44	60% C- 3 Cons- Trib, J. Am. WT & S	
St James, \$8.05	LA 4-4664	100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58	

LONG DAYS	230 W 46	100% C- Ravess for O'Neill play & cast	
Hayes \$6.90	CI 6-4380	100% B- Cap \$30--\$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30	
MAJOR BARBARA	245 W 45	70% C- 2 Cons- Times, Tribune	
Morocco \$6.90	CI 6-6230	65% B- Cap \$37--\$24 \$31 \$28 \$29 \$31 \$35 \$34	
MIDDLE NIGHT	250 W 52	20% C- 2 Pro Play- Mir, J. Am 100% C-Robinson	
ANTA \$5.75	CI 6-8870	70% B- Cap \$40--\$25 \$33 \$28 \$28 \$27 \$31 \$27	
MOST HAPPY FELLA	249 W 45	90% C- 1 Con- H. Tribune	
Imperial \$7.50	CO 5-2412	80% B- Cap \$57--\$48 \$57 \$48 \$50 \$54 \$57 \$53	
MY FAIR LADY	1655 Bway	100% C- Unanimous praise for musical-cast	
Hellinger \$6.05	PL 7-7064	100% B- Cap \$68 --\$68 \$68 \$68 \$68 \$68 \$68 \$68	
NO TIME SOTS	249 W 52	100% C- Unanimous praise for soldier comedy	
Alvin \$5.75	CI 5-5226	70% B- Cap \$6--\$6 \$36 \$30 \$32 \$35 \$27	
POTTING SHED	209 W 45	100% C- Unanimous praise for play-cast	
Bojor \$5.25	JU 6-5442	90% B- Cap \$20--\$18 \$19 \$18 \$17 \$17	
SEPARATE TABLES	239 W 45	100% C- Unanimous praise for Eng. twin-bill	
Music Box \$5.75	CI 6-4636	85% B- Cap \$31--\$25 \$28 \$26 \$27 \$28 \$28 \$28	
TUNNEL OF LOVE	239 W 45	30% C- 2 Pro- Trib, News	
Royale \$5.75	CI 6-8870	95% B- Cap \$34--\$32 \$34 \$34	
VISIT S. PLANET	231 W 45	100% C- Mostly for Ritchard-Mayhoff antics	
Booth \$5.75	CI 6-5969	100% B- Cap \$27--\$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27	
UNCLE WILLIE	252 W 45	100% C- Skutnik, 0% C-minus him	
Golden \$5.75	CI 6-6740	65% B- Cap \$24--\$15 \$15 \$15 \$15 \$17 \$19 \$17 \$19	
WALTZ TOREADORS	259 W 49	90% C- 1 Con- WT & S	
Coronet \$5.75	CI 6-8870	75% B- Cap \$35--\$27 \$26 \$27 \$27 \$27	
ZIEGFELD FOLLIES	1634 Bway	60% C- 4 Pro Little-News, Mir, Post, J. Am	
W. Garden \$8.05	CI 5-4878		

# "RATINGS OF NYC CRITICS"

1956-57 season ratings of NYC drama critics on CURRENT Broadway shows by CRITICAL DIGEST. "%%" figures are percentages of pro votes in comparison to con votes on current shows. Variety 1955-56 and 1954-55 season figures are percentages of favorable reviews for entire season.

24 shows	CD %	Pro	Cons	Variety 1955-56	1954-55
Atkinson, Times	70%	18	6	.490	.607
Kerr, H. Trib	75%	17	7	.394	.354
Chesman, News	90%	22	2	.827	.580
Coleman, Mirror	85%	20	4	.454	.566
Watts, Post	90%	22	2	.541	.426
McClain, J. Amer.	95%	21	3	.535	.532
Donnelly, WT & S	78%	17	7	.306	.549

(Hawkins 1955)

" OFF BROADWAY "			" THEATRE CALENDAR "		
ANATOMIST Royal \$3	62 E 4 GR 5-9647	2 Con- Times, Post	Wedding in Japan- Greystones 3/1	Packaged in Paris -4/22	
BOX WATER COLORS	56 & Bway CI 7-0387	1 Pro- Womens Wear	Exterior- Renata- 3/12	First Gentlemen- Back 4/25	
DOCTOR FAUSTUS	314 W 87 CI 7-0236	2 Con- Times, Variety- SUNDAYS 5 PM only	Sin Per- Middleton- 3/13	Moon for Miragotten- Bijou 4/30	
Electra- \$2.60		2 Pro- Times, Journal American	Beggar's Opera- City Center 3/13	Red Hot Chain 4/7	
DOCTOR INSPIRE OF	4 St Marks Pl	1 Con- Post	Trojan Women- Theatre Marquee 3/18	Football Curses 4/7	
Tempo \$3		2 Con- Times, Post	Duchess of Madi- Phoenix 3/19	Oscar Wilde- 4/7	
EXILES	144 Bleecker	2 Pro- Times, Trib.	Showing Up of Bianco- Provincetown 3/19	Greatest Man Alive- 5/8	
Renata \$1.85		6 Pro- Times, Trib, Mir, J. Am. WT&S, Post	Orpheus Descending- Back 3/21	New Girl in Town -5/9	
ICEMAN COMETH	5 Sher Sq GR 5-9437	6 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, WT&S, Mir, Variety	Brigadoon- City Center 3/27	Kaleidoscope- Provincetown 6/4	
IN KING CHARLES	85 E 4 OR 3-4412	4 Pro- Times, Trib, Mir, Post	Land Beyond River- G. Mews 3/28	The Egghead- 9/26	
LADYS NOT FOR	56 & Bway CI 6-6630	5 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, Women Wear, Variety	Apollo of Bellac- Carn. Playhouse 4/2	Romanoff and Juliet 9/27	
Carn Play \$3.60		4 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, WT&S	Hotel Paradiso- Miller 4/3		
ME CANDIDO	131 E 13 CH 2-9831	4 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, WT&S	Hide & Seek- Barrymore 4/2		
G. Mews		2 Con- News, J. Am. "	Lise- 4/3		
PURPLE DUST	31 Commerce CH 2-4468	2 Pro- Times, Mir	The Joker- Playhouse 4/4		
Cherry Lane \$1.85		2 Con- WT & S, Post	Shinbone Alley- Broadway 4/13		
RIGHT YOU ARE	165 W 57 PL 7-2027	5 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, Women Wear, Variety	Weyland- Barb. Playhouse 4/18		
Fischer \$3.45		1 Con- J. American	Librarian- Palace 4/20		
TAKE GIANT STEP	351 E 74 LY 6-8947	3 Pro- Times, Trib, Post			
Jan Hus \$3.45		5 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, News, Variety			
3 PENNY OPERA	121 Chris. WA 4-8782	5 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, J. Am. WT & S			
De Lys \$4.85		4 Pro- Times, Mir, WT & S, Women Wear			
UTOPIA, LDT	244 W 87 SU 7-2277	4 Con- Trib, Post, News, Variety			
Shakes \$3.45		1 Pro- Post			
VOLPONE	111 E Houston GR 7-8320	2 Con- Times, WT & S			
Redtop \$3.60					
WEDDING IN JAPAN	Bway & 91 SC 4-1800				
Greystone \$2.30					

" TV THEATRE PROGRAMS "

Mar 17- NBC- There Shall Be No Night- with K. Cornell on Hallmark  
Mar 31- CBS- Cinderella by Rodgers & Hammerstein with Julie Andrews  
Apr 1- NBC- Great Sebastians- with Luntz on Producers Showcase  
Apr 8- NBC- Victoria Regina with Claire Bloom on Montgomery Show  
Apr 10- NBC- Yeoman of Guard with Alfred Drake on Hallmark  
May 11- NBC- George M. Cohan Story with Mickey Rooney

" CD VIEWS ON CURRENT SHOWS "

Damn Yankee, Diary Anna Frank, Happiest Millionaire, Hidden River,  
Hole in Head, Long Days Journey, Most Happy Fella, Patti  
Separate Tables, Tunnel of Love, Uncle Willie, Walks of T. Anderson  
3 Irish Plays, Iceman Cometh, Me Candido, Purple Dust, Take Giant Step  
in King Charles  
Holiday for Lovers, Middle Night, Ziegfeld Follies  
Volpone



GREEN  
ROOM  
DEPARTMENT

**LEGIT VOX POX...** Are US theatre audiences punctual, a Post photographer asked. US theatre public is becoming more theatre minded and on the whole more punctual, a hotel manager answered. Only the co-called Cafe Society come late, observes an out-of-towner. The first night audience is the only unpunctual group, adds a NY businessman.

**COLUMN TIPS...** Orpheus Descending cast to petition producers to reconsider sudden and rather puzzling dismissal of Robert Loggia, hears Kilgallen... Marilyn Monroe may make stage debut in Lysistrata musical, rumors Winchell... Irene Dunne considered for Auntie Mame lead in 1958, notes Wilson.

**DRAMA MAIL BOX...** Deleware is now in its fifth year of a successful student-ticket plan for shows at Wilmington Playhouse, selling unsold seats to students at \$1.10, reports a Times reader... Theatre fans who complain about the problems of getting tickets give themselves away as "hit-goers" only, points out a C. D. subscriber.

**DANCING OFF BWAY...** Volpone is choreographed drama, spicy and delectable, okays Terry, Herald Tribune. Daniel Nagrin has done an absolutely top-notch job with the robust, roistering and richly inventive dance actions. Dance critic also enjoyed the two dance sequences of The Anatomist.

**CRITICAL THOUGHTS...** Two current playwrights, Christopher Fry and Tennessee Williams, will be billed above the leading players, a sure sign of success, in The Lady's Not for Burning and Orpheus Descending, reports Peper, World Telegram & Sun... Critics through experience and long exposure to all types of theatrical virus are apt to be less susceptible to the more common variety in rating a play, notes McClain, Journal American.

**SECOND GUESSES...** In both The Potting Shed and The Waltz of Toreadors an image has come first, comments Kerr, Herald Tribune. Everything else has been bent and twisted and subdued to the service of the clear, bright picture in the author's mind--however unconventional or unlikely that picture might be... Holiday for Lovers has an engaging warm heartedness and an attitude of uncomplicated friendliness and good will toward the world that Watts, Post, finds remarkably refreshing.

**INTERVIEW HI-LITES...** The atmosphere of A Hole in the Head is accurate, but the details are fictional, Arnold Schulman told Coleman, Mirror. His Florida motel-owner father made daily deposits at the bank and now owns a chain of motels... Robert Flemyng, The Potting Shed, doesn't go for psychiatry, he told Herridge, Post, and he finds mixed-up people tiresome. The role he portrays was first offered to John Gielgud and Michael Redgrave, both of whom hated it... The theatre is a very mysterious place, Peter DeVries, co author of Tunnel of Love told Donnelley, WT&S. People don't laugh at what you think they will. He also wonders how many really laugh out loud in the theatre.





OFF  
BROADWAY

A cabaret theatre in Greenwich Village will present straight plays in repertory and cast from a permanent basic company, giving first consideration to new plays by new and unknown playwrights. Philip Posner and John Main will present the plays for a one or two week run. Patrons will be served snacks and beverages one hour before curtain time, during the intermission and after the show. A flat admission will cover food, drinks and the show.

The Journal of Simon McKeever by Albert Maltz will be presented as curtain raiser to Shaw's The Shewing Up of Blanco Posnet at Provincetown... Provincetown rented for summer to Stainbrook-McKee Productions. First presentation to be revue Kaleidoscope due June 4... Scottie McGregor replaced Mary Welch, Purple Dust... Twin- bill of Fantasio and The Game of Love and Chance to be presente Mar 18 only at Carnegie Hall Playhouse... Last ANTA Matinee of season March 28 at Theatre de Lys with Peggy Wood heading group reading from Candida... The Land Beyond the River opens March 28 at Greenwich Mews.

Charles S Griffin and Clayton Corbin to present new revue Rush Hour in mid-April at Chanin Auditorium. Music, lyrics and sketches by Dave Patich, Martin Charmin, Robert Kessler, Jay Umberto Torchta.

Annie Get Your Gun production of Equity Community Library Theatre is on the whole a sufficiently exuberant, sprightly rendition, okayed Funke, Times. Jessie Elliott in lead succeeds in keeping the show on the bounce.

THEATRE

BOOK

COMMENTS



"On Actors and the Art of Acting" by George Henry Lewes (Grove) was rated as a new edition of dramatic observations written in the mid-19th century that makes an excellent addition to the library of any theatre-lover by Rodo, Variety.

THEATRE

RECORD

COMMENTS

Two albums with Siobhan McKenna were praised by Newsweek. Saint Joan (RCA Victor) Cambridge Drama Festival production stresses an early peasant simplicity rather than any awareness of saintliness, critic notes. Playboy of the Western World (Angel Paris 1955 Festival production) is an odd fusion of soaring lyrical romanticism and brutal reality.



OUT

OF

TOWN

Boston currently playing host to Janus... Philadelphia viewing Damn Yankees... Pittsburgh has Fanny... San Francisco catching up on Cat on a Hot Tin Roof... Washington continues with The Apple Cart.





" PROS & CONS BY TMK "

3 Synge Plays are a trio of warm, literate, moving playlets by Synge. They are very well-acted by a group of players on the tiny Theatre East playing area. Minor complaint might be that as evening is on the short-side--from 8 50 to 10 30 that group could present another play as an encore.

\* \*

Exiles is a skillful presentation of an almost static, though literate, play. Thanks to superb acting audience, most of the time, forgets how stilted many of the speeches are. Even so the play itself is dated, slow-moving and at many spots, just plain obtuse. Recommended for devoted Off-Broadwayites only. The handsome Bleecker St. theatre is worth at trip downtown.

\* \*

Wedding In Japan presents an interesting situation, but as a play never gets past the surface aspects of the problem. As a production it is very uneven. Theatre built into 91st St hotel ballroom provides long-sweeping stage, only part of which is used in current play.

\* \*

Theatre audiences after the first week are more than punctual, they are very early. A brief week in the legit theatre area at 8 PM will see many out-of-towners waiting for the theatre doors to open. It is unfair to them to continue the current practice of holding the curtain 10 or 15 minutes past the announced starting time.

\* \*

It is good news to all concerned with theatre that the Equity- League of NY Theatres discussion on the hiring of alien actors has been settled. Theatre at best is a hazardous business and the producer has enough problems without making his casting please Equity Council. Let it be pointed out once again that the restrictions on aliens are set up by the federal government and not by the actors union.

\* \*

The Delaware student ticket plan outlined in Times letter is a plan worthy of merit and applause. All unsold seats at Wilmington Playhouse are sold to students at \$1.10 each. Such a program widened to the point where students--including out of town college and high school visitors to NYC--could attend NYC shows at a low rate would be very worthwhile. It might even be profitable to the point where such an audience of budding legit fans from all over the country could aid word-of-mouth reports and keep a show open during the difficult first few weeks.

\* \*

The two new and comfortable Off Broadway theatres introduced this week --The Renati on Bleecker St and Grey-stone on 91st St--show the ingenuity and good taste the new Off Broadway producers have in theatre construction. Picking the proper plays for their new theatres is a harder chore, naturally. The managers of these new houses should also be careful in not pricing their new enterprises out of business. There is a huge Off-Broadway audience for plays at \$1.80, but for a \$3.85 ducat audiences expect, and can get, Broadway performances.



